

MEMBERS' COMMENTS FROM PREVIOUS ARTICLES

Perfin from the Isle of Scilly Bulletin 315 pg. 13

I [Ed.], suggested to Gaille Ellis that the card, details and photocopy of which appeared in Bulletin 315, should be sent to our catalogue editor for his inspection. This is Roy's comment after examining the card.

"I am certain the perfin is a 'Wartime provisional' and would be covered by the catalogue number A5170.01 p. The "AS" portion is rather ragged and the "P" has clean cut holes, a sure sign that the initialling was done in two stages -first with a somewhat worn "AS" die followed by a newer, and certainly sharper, single letter "P" die. Another pointer to it being a 'Wartime Provisional' is the asymmetric layout of the letters, with the "P" being off to the right. Admittedly, the date is a little late for a 'Wartime Provisional', being almost 10 years after Sloper's premises were bombed in May 1941, but presumably the volume of stamps initialled with the letters "AS/P" was too small/infrequent to warrant the expense of making a 'regular' die. I know of another 'Wartime Provisional' with a particularly late date, "RT/F" used 9 Sep 1951, but no doubt there are more out there waiting to be discovered/reported.

The technique Slopers used (i.e. using more than one die to create the necessary initials) was in use prior to the loss of their dies in the "Blitz", and continued well into the 1960's - see "SR" (S6210.02v) used by Sam Robbins Ltd, The Austin depot, Coventry & Rugby. "

This comment to Gaille about the perfin on her card shows how much information can be gathered by the expert. Being a modest sort of chap, Roy would say he does not have all the answers but I think he has most.